

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) An assembly for machining a seal wire groove into a gas turbine rotor blade that includes a dovetail, said assembly comprising:

a base portion;

a body portion coupled to said base portion; and

a first set of retainers removably coupled to said body portion, said first set of retainers comprising an upper portion having a profile that substantially mirrors a portion of a first dovetail, and a lower portion having a profile that substantially mirrors an opposite side of the first dovetail, wherein said first set of retainers slidably couple to said body portion, such that said first set of retainers can be replaced by a second set of retainers that are configured to retain a second dovetail that is different from the first dovetail[.]; and

a locking mechanism comprising a first end, a second end opposite said first end, a central portion that couples said first end to said second end, and a handle coupled to said second end, said locking mechanism configured to secure said lower portion within said body portion.

7. (canceled)

8. (original) An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said upper portion comprises a locking mechanism configured to secure said upper portion within said body portion.

9. (original) An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said body portion comprises:

a first opening sized to receive said upper portion therein; and

a second opening sized to receive said lower portion therein.

10. (original) An assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said upper portion and said first opening each have a substantially rectangular cross-sectional profile.

11. (original) An assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said lower portion and said second opening each have a substantially T-shaped cross-sectional profile.

12. (currently amended) An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said second set of retainers ~~are~~ is different than said first set of retainers, said second set of retainers comprising an upper portion having a profile that substantially mirrors a portion of the second dovetail, and a lower portion having a profile that substantially mirrors an opposite side of said second dovetail.

13. (currently amended) A milling machine comprising:

an assembly for machining a seal wire groove into a gas turbine rotor blade that includes a dovetail, said assembly comprising:

a base portion;

a body portion coupled to said base portion; and

a first set of retainers removably coupled to said body portion, said first set of retainers comprising an upper portion having a profile that substantially mirrors a portion of a first dovetail, and a lower portion having a profile that substantially mirrors an opposite side of the first dovetail, wherein said first set of retainers slidably couple to said body portion, such that said first set of retainers can be replaced by a second set of retainers that are configured to retain a second dovetail that is different from the first dovetail; and

a locking mechanism comprising a first end, a second end opposite said first end, a central portion that couples said first end to said second end, and a handle coupled to said second end, said locking mechanism configured to secure said lower portion within said body portion; and

a grinding wheel configured to machine at least one seal wire groove into said dovetail.

14. (currently amended) A milling machine in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said assembly further comprises[[:]]

~~a first locking mechanism configured to secure said lower portion within said body portion; and~~

a second locking mechanism coupled to said upper portion and configured to secure said upper portion within said body portion.

15. (original) A milling machine in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said body portion comprises:

a first opening sized to receive said upper portion therein; and

a second opening sized to receive said lower portion therein.

16. (original) A milling machine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said upper portion and said first opening each have a substantially rectangular cross-sectional profile.

17. (original) A milling machine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said lower portion and said second opening each have a substantially T-shaped cross-sectional profile.

18. (currently amended) A milling machine in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said second set of retainers ~~are~~ is different than said first set of retainers, said second set of retainers comprising an upper portion having a profile that substantially mirrors a portion of the second dovetail, and a lower portion having a profile that substantially mirrors an opposite side of said second dovetail.

19. (original) A milling machine in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said grinding wheel further comprises a cubic boron nitride (CBN) grinding wheel configured to machine two seal wire grooves into said dovetail.

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20. (original) A milling machine in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said CBN grinding wheel comprises a cutting geometry that substantially mirrors a seal wire geometry.